/141 cont./

848 842 (833) (602) We believe that the true justification for this suppression resides in the necessity of controlling conception and hence the legitimacy of a birth. It is for this reason that the sexual act must be performed in the midst of the family.

852 574 [431] Thirdly and finally, three days after the birth, the father receives his friends and his relatives to celebrate the first bath of the newborn child. While everyone brings small gift, he for his part must "sacrifice" a lamb and prepare it on the spit for his visitors.

851 852 848 182 This small celebration has for its object chiefly the presentation of the newborn child to the society to which its father belongs and which in turn adopts it. At the same time it constitutes for the father the occasion to announce, albeit implicitly and indirectly, the legitimacy of his child. If he did not consider it his own, why would he celebrate its birth?

848 602 /142/ In all that has gone before there is nothing that ought to surprise us: When we know that the foundation of Sarakatsani society rests on the family as such, and that this family in turn is founded on blood kinship, on kinship on the father's side above all, we can easily understand that the legitimacy of descent merits altogether special attention.

If the offspring is not legitimate there is no reason why he should be integrated into the society. There is no reason why he should enjoy all the privileges that kinship brings him--assistance on the part of other members, economic cooperation, solidarity, security.

(613) Conversely, it is impossible for him to obtain for others what a true kinsman is able to give them, that is to say, an alliance with his lineage, since he does not have one.

848 578 602 Consequently, any dispute about legitimacy must be excluded in advance. That is because it could bring about an unsettling of kinship bonds and provoke a veritable dislocation of the system of social relationships as we have described them in the preceding pages. In other words,